black news digest

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The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

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Boston, Mass. 02203
617-223-6767

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Puerto Rico
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New York, N.Y. 10036
212-971-5477

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404-526-5495

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Chicago, Ill. 60606
312-353-6976

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U.S. Courthouse
Room 7C42
1100 Commerce St.
Dallas, Tex. 75202
214-749-2308

Region VII .....
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Kansas City, Mo. 64106
816-374-5481

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North Dakota
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Federal Bldg.
1961 Stout St.
Denver, Co. 80202
303-837-4234

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Tor Torland
Room 10007
Federal Bldg.
450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, Calif. 94102
415-556-3423

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Ernest Hood
Arcade Plaza
Room 2034
1321 Second Ave.
Seattle, Wash. 98101
296-442-7620

Soc. Sci.

JOBLESS RATE FOR BLACKS
REMAINS STABLE IN JUNE

WASHINGTON -- Unemployment during June among black workers--8.8 percent--remained about unchanged from May, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For the nation as a whole, both employment and unemployment were essentially unchanged in June. The 5.2 percent unemployment rate has held fairly steady since the beginning of the year, the Bureau said.

At 86.2 million, total employment (as measured by the monthly sample survey of households) edged up from May to June and since April has risen by 400,000. This increase followed a 6-month period of virtually no change.

The two-month increase was dominated by adult women.

Nonagricultural payroll employment (as measured by the monthly survey of business establishments) was about unchanged at 77.1 million in June. In recent months, however, total payroll jobs have rebounded from the depressed levels encountered during last winter's period of energy-related shortages.

Unemployment usually rises sharply between May and June due to the entry into the labor market of a large number of young persons after the close of the school year. The increase this June generally matched those of recent years, and, after taking this into account through seasonal adjustment, the number of persons unemployed was virtually unchanged at 4.8 million.

(MORE)

Overall stability in the June unemployment situation was reflected in the rates for nearly all of the major labor force groups. Jobless rates for household heads (3.1 percent), adult men (3.5 percent), adult women (5.1 percent), and teenagers (15.6 percent) were the same or nearly the same as in May. The rate for married men, however, which had declined from 2.5 percent in April to 2.2 percent in May, rose to 2.6 percent in June. Unemployment rates for white and black workers, at 4.8 and 8.8 percent respectively, were not statistically different from their May levels, nor were jobless rates for both full- and part-time workers. The rate for workers covered by State unemployment insurance programs, at 3.4 percent in June, has been virtually the same since February.

The unemployment rate for Vietnam-era veterans 20 to 34 years old, at 5.2 percent, was about the same in June as in the previous 5 months and a year ago. Recently discharged veterans (those 20 to 24 years old) continued to experience greater job market difficulties than their nonveteran counterparts; their jobless rate, at 10.1 percent, remained substantially higher than that of young nonveterans (7.5 percent). On the other hand, unemployment rates for older veterans--4.4 percent for those aged 25 to 29 and 2.6 percent for those 30 to 34--continued to approximate those for nonveterans of the same ages.

Unemployment data by industry and occupation showed few changes in June with the exception of increases in the unemployment rates for blue-collar and factory workers--both of which returned approximately to the same levels prevailing since February--while there was a decline in the rate for service workers.

(MORE)

Although the overall unemployment situation was virtually unchanged, the number of persons who lost or left their last jobs increased. These increases were largely offset by a decrease in the number of unemployed reentrants to the labor force.

The civilian labor force rose by 240,000 in June to 90.9 million (seasonally adjusted), following an even larger increase from April to May. Since January, adult women in the labor force have increased by 800,000, but this increase has been partially offset by declines of about 130,000 and 300,000, respectively, among adult men and teenagers. Since June 1973, the civilian labor force has risen by 2.1 million.

Total employment, at 86.2 million (seasonally adjusted), was up by 400,000 from April. In keeping with the pattern since the beginning of the year, the 2-month expansion was dominated by adult women, although there was a small increase for adult men as well. Teenage employment was about unchanged between April and June and was about a quarter of a million lower than in January.

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose in accordance with normal May-to-June movements and, after seasonal adjustment, remained unchanged at 36.8 hours. Since last June, average weekly hours for production or nonsupervisory workers have decreased 0.3 hour; in manufacturing, the over-the-year declines were even greater--a decrease of 0.5 hour in both the average workweek and overtime hours.

(MORE)

Average hourly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.7 percent in June, seasonally adjusted. Since June 1973, hourly earnings have risen by 7.8 percent. Average weekly earnings also increased by 0.7 percent in June and were up 6.9 percent over the past year.

Both before and after adjustment for seasonality, average hourly earnings rose by 3 cents in June to $4.17. Since June 1973, hourly earnings have increased by 30 cents. Weekly earnings averaged $154.71 in June, an increase of $3.19 from May and $9.97 from June a year ago.

# # #

MINORITY HIRING GOALS IMPOSED
FOR CONSTRUCTION CRAFTS IN 21 AREAS

WASHINGTON -- Mandatory minority hiring goals have been imposed for various construction crafts in 21 areas across the country where voluntarily set goals were not met, it was announced by Philip J. Davis, director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC).

The goals were imposed after OFCC found certain participants in "hometown" or voluntarily negotiated minority hiring plans in the 21 localities failing to exert the required good-faith effort to meet their employment obligations in the affected crafts.

Contractors and subcontractors bidding on federally involved construction projects in these localities now have individual minority hiring goals and timetables for these crafts on all of their projects.

Failure to make good-faith efforts to meet the newly imposed requirements may result in contract cancellation, suspension, termination or debarment from federally involved construction work.

When a good-faith effort to increase minority employment is shown, a craft may be reconsidered for inclusion in the appropriate voluntarily negotiated hometown plan.

Under a hometown plan, contractors certify that they and the crafts they employ are signatory to the plan and will observe its provisions, including goals and timetables for minority employment.

The hometown plans were audited in 1973 and 1974 to measure progress made in minority hiring programs. The audits revealed the lack of good-faith effort to meet the goals.

OFCC administers Executive Order 11246, which prohibits federal and federally assisted contractors and subcontractors from discriminating because of race, color, sex, religion or national origin and requires affirmative action to provide equal employment opportunity.

(More)

Following is a list of the 21 cities, states and counties with hometown plans that include crafts now covered by mandatory minority hiring goals:

CRAFT	LOCAL
BOSTON	
Asbestos Workers	#6
Cement Masons	#534
Electrical Workers	#103
Glaziers	#1044
Lathers	#72
Operating Engineers	#4
Pipefitters	#537
Plasterers	#10
Roofers	#33
Sheetmetal Workers	#17
RHODE ISLAND	
Asbestos Workers	#31
Bricklayers	#1
Electrical Workers	#99
Glaziers	#1333
Operating Engineers	#57
Plasterers/Cement Masons	#40
Plumbers	#28
Roofers	#169
Sign Painters	#729
Steamfitters	#476

CRAFT	LOCAL
NEW HAVEN	
Bricklayers	#6
Glaziers	#1278
Operating Engineers	#478
Painters	#186
Roofers	#12
Tile & Terrazzo Workers	#65
BUFFALO	
Bricklayers	#45
Carpenters	Carpenters District Council of Buffalo and Vicinity

(More)

CRAFT	LOCAL
TRENTON	
Ironworkers	#68
Lathers	#66
Plumbers/Pipefitters	#236
Plumbers/Pipefitters	#380
Sheetmetal	#111
DELAWARE	
Asbestos Workers	#42
Bricklayers	#1
Electrical Workers	#313
Millwrights	#1545
Painters	#100
AKRON	
Glaziers	#1162
Painters	#841
Plasterers	#109
Plumbers	#219
INDIANAPOLIS	
Asbestos Workers	#3
Bricklayers	#18
NEW ORLEANS	
Millwrights	#1931
TOPEKA	
Carpenters	#1445
Glaziers	#558
OMAHA	
Carpenters	Carpenters District Council of Omaha
Glaziers	#5[illegible]

CRAFT	LOCAL
WESTCHESTER COUNTY	
Glaziers	#1087
PITTSBURGH	
Bricklayers	#2
Glaziers	#751
Painters	#6
Tile Workers	#26
DAYTON	
Asbestos Workers	#19
Bricklayers	#22
Glaziers	#923
Lathers	#30
Painters	#247
EVANSVILLE	
Painters	#156
Plasterers	#136
TULSA	
Carpet & Linoleum Workers	#1533
Painters	#1895
KANSAS CITY	
Boilermakers	#83
Bricklayers	#18
Carpenters District Council	
Electrical Workers	#124
Plasterers	#17
Marble Masons, Terrazzo Workers and Tile Layers	#3
Pipefitters	#533

(More)

CRAFT	LOCAL
ALAMEDA	
Carpenters	#36
Carpenters	#191
Carpenters	#478
Carpenters	#1158
Carpenters	#1473
Carpenters	#1699
SANTA CLARA	
Boilermakers	#6
Carpet/Linoleum Workers	#1288
Glaziers	#1621
CLEVELAND	
Art Glass	#1210
Boilermakers	#744
Bricklayers	#5
Cement Masons	#404
Electrical Workers	#38
Glaziers	#181
Ironworkers	#17
Lathers	#2
Pipefitters	#120
Plasterers	#80
Plumbers	#55
Roofers	#44
Tile & Marble Helpers	#103
Tile Setters	#36

CRAFT	LOCAL
FRESNO	
Carpenters	#701
Carpenters	#1109
Electrical Workers	#100
Glaziers	#132
Millmen	#1496
Painters	#294
Tile & Terrazzo Workers	#23
Tile Helpers	#163

# # #

BRENNAN PRESENTS PAINTERS APPRENTICESHIP
STANDARDS CERTIFICATE-- 14.7% ARE BLACK

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, a former apprentice and journeyman painter, personally presented a registration certificate for apprenticeship standards in the painting and decorating industry to labor and management representatives.

Latest figures show that 14.7 percent of painter-drywall apprentices are black. A total of 23 percent are from minority groups, well above the average for the construction trades as a whole. Average hourly wage for a painter after apprenticeship is about $8.

Secretary Brennan saluted the industry for its "high standards of excellence and your unswerving dedication to the principles of equal employment opportunity."

He noted that the painters' apprenticeship program had the highest percentage of minority participation in the construction industry.

Brennan presented the registration certificate in ceremonies in his office to S. Frank Raftery, general president of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO; E. Glenn Craven, executive director, Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, and Howard Leederman, executive director, Gypsum Drywall Contractors International.

The apprenticeship program in the painting trades is one of the oldest registered programs in the country, having registered with the Labor Department in 1937, shortly after the National Apprenticeship Act was passed.

The standards, which are revised periodically as needed to reflect any changes in the industry, affect approximately 8,700 apprentices currently at work under three-year programs for painters and two years for drywall finishers.

# # #

COMPUTER AGE BRINGS NEW LOOK
TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES

WASHINGTON--Unionists and other jobseekers will find a new look at their local public employment offices.

A key part of the remodeled, computer-assisted employment service system is the Job Information Service.

The Job Information Service has two main parts:

--The Job Bank, a daily computerized listing of all job and training opportunities available through the State Employment Service--which in each state is part of a federal-state partnership guided by the U.S. Labor Department's Manpower Administration.

--A library of job search and career guidance materials, most of them developed by the local employment service staff to meet local needs.

The library contains written materials for distribution and reference. It also contains tapes, films and other audiovisual aids.

A description of the "Job Information Service" is available free from the Correspondence Office, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20212.

The publication is reprinted from the Winter 1973 issue of the Labor Department's Occupational Outlook Quarterly.

It says that the aim of the Job Information Service is to share freely with job seekers and counselors all available employment service information about jobs and how to find them.

The Job Information Service has been installed in local employment service offices in about 100 major metropolitan areas.

Pilot projects in 10 labor market areas showed that many of the applicants visiting local public employment offices could find jobs through a system that gave them the major responsiblility for selecting openings to which they might be referred.

(MORE)

This was a departure from the former procedure in which employment service counselors selected the jobs they felt matched the applicant's qualifications.

Besides giving applicants a greater voice in job selection, the self-service system freed employment service staff members from much routine interviewing, giving them more time to help individuals needing special attention.

The Job Bank is a daily computerized system of listing job openings. Today it operates in more than 100 cities. In 31 states, all local employment service offices are part of a statewide Job Bank system, with daily printouts and "viewouts" on microfilm or microfiche from all part of the state.

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IT'S NO LONGER 'WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION' --
IT'S 'WORKERS' COMPENSATION'

WASHINGTON -- Tuning in with the times, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Workmen's Compensation Programs is now the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

The name change announced by Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, "acknowledges the current trend to eliminate references to sex in job and organization titles," he said.

Brennan called the change "an example of our continuing effort to recognize the growing number of working women in our nation."

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, directed by Herbert A. Doyle, Jr., administers the Federal Employees Compensation Act, the War Hazards Compensation Act and certain provisions of the War Claims Act.

It also has responsibility for the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and since July 1, 1973, has been administering the black lung benefits program under the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act.

The office is a part of the Employment Standards Administration (ESA) headed by Assistant Secretary Bernard E. DeLury.

# # #

Week of July 15, 1974

OSHA SPELLS 'SAFER, MORE HEALTHFUL' WORKSITES, BRENNAN SAYS

WASHINGTON -- American workers today enjoy a safer and more healthful working environment with the help of the three-year-old Occupational Safety and Health Act, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan said.

Citing completion of more than 145,000 workplace compliance inspections from the act's April 1971 effective date through April 1974, Brennan said the U.S. Department of Labor found 495,433 alleged violations of job safety and health standards.

The Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued 96,289 citations for the violations and proposed penalties totaling $12,372,853, he added.

Of that amount, $8,981,980 has been remitted to the Secretary of the Treasury. The balance represents funds not yet collected, plus OSHA-proposed penalties that were ordered reduced or vacated by the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission after employer appeals.

"Clearly, OSHA's enforcement of this law has had significant impact on the working conditions of American men and women," Brennan said.

Before the act's passage, no uniform protection was available to workers who each day faced both obvious and unseen threats to their physical well-being, he noted.

As technology increased--and machinery and industrial chemicals became more common and complex--the hazards increased accordingly, he added.

(MORE)

"Today," Brennan said, "the law not only enables industry, labor and government to recognize and identify hazards to safety and health but offers meaningful recourse for eliminating those hazards."

Noting that Americans once took accidents, injuries and disease for granted as a normal part of the nation's worklife, the Secretary said, "we now recognize them as an unnecessary, preventable waste of human lives and limbs."

Government, the federal official said, is conducting research to identify new and existing hazards, and has stepped up issuance of job safety and health standards.

Labor and management are devoting more attention to job hazards and are more frequently inserting job safety and health provisions in collective bargaining agreements, Brennan said.

"As we move ahead in the fourth year under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, we share a greater awareness of the need for safe and healthful workplaces and are working together to achieve them," he said.

He said that according to reports he had received from Assistant Labor Secretary John H. Stender, who heads OSHA, compliance inspections almost doubled within the past fiscal year -- from 33,190 during July 1972-April 1973 to 63,778 during the same period this year.

Stender reported that OSHA compliance activities during April 1974 included 6,428 inspections which led to 4,996 citations alleging 26,741 violations of safety and health standards. Proposed penalties totaled $562,543.

# # #

Week of July 15, 1974

MONTHLY AREA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR JUNE

WASHINGTON -- The number of major labor areas with "substantial unemployment" (six percent or more) remained unchanged from the previous month at 45, the Department of Labor has reported.

Of the 150 major labor areas, 105 have unemployment rates of less than six percent. A year ago there were 113 such areas.

The June ratings are based on employment and unemployment reports of state employment security agencies for mid-April and on preliminary May figures.

"Substantial" unemployment means the area has a jobless rate of six percent or more, discounting seasonal or temporary factors, with the rate expected to continue for at least two or more months.

# # #

World of Work

Opportunities In Skilled Crafts Better For Women

By PETER J. BRENNAN
Secretary of Labor

QUESTION: What are a young woman's chances of getting into one of the skilled crafts today?

ANSWER: A young woman's chances are improving since employers are now required by law to provide equal employment opportunities for women and minorities. Not only are employers now beginning to tap this previously neglected reservoir of talent, but many are required to establish affirmative action programs to actively recruit and hire women where they have been underutilized and to see that they have opportunities for on-the-job training and promotions. One result of these requirements has been the opening of more apprenticeships to women, since this is an area in which women are greatly underrepresented, although many women have the necessary aptitudes and potential skills. Women can prepare for apprenticeable jobs on an equal basis with men by learning about the job requirements of local employers and by taking the appropriate courses in high school or vocational schools. Women now have the option to enter the skilled crafts and trades and should resist the adverse social pressures and discriminatory practices that may have hindered them in the past.

* * * *

QUESTION: Can an employer hire a student at less than the established minimum wage for a part-time or summer job?

ANSWER: Yes. Under amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act effective May 1, 1974, retail, service, or agricultural employers may employ up to four full-time students at 85 percent of the minimum wage by filing an application with the Secretary of Labor. Employers seeking to hire more than four students must receive prior certification from the Secretary. This is to ensure that student employees do not displace regular full-time workers. Employers may not use the subminimum wage for full-time students, however, as an excuse to lower the pay of students currently in their employ. Persons seeking further information should contact the nearest Employment Standards Administration Wage-Hour Office, listed in most phone books under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.

* * * *

Editor's note: If you have a question regarding job training and placement, labor-management relations, job health and safety, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, employment and unemployment, prices and earnings and other matters involving the U.S. Department of Labor, send it to:

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor
"World of Work"
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Consumer

Green Light for Summer Driving

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

If you are making vacation plans—as I recently did—you are probably wondering whether you can confidently plan on using the car.

The answer is a qualified yes. If consumers continue to practice energy conservation, there should be enough gasoline for a certain amount of summer vacation travel as well as for regular transportation needs.

According to the Federal Energy Administration (FEA)—known as Federal Energy Office earlier this year—if consumers continue to observe the 55 m.p.h. speed limit, use car pools and keep their cars in good driving condition, we should make it through the summer without gas shortages.

This does not mean that our gas supply would hold up if every family took off on a coast-to-coast trip. But it should reassure you that you need not worry if you are planning a short touring vacation or a drive to the shore or the mountains.

This forecast is seconded by the American Automobile Association (AAA), which conducts spot checks of service stations around the country. For this summer, the AAA reports that motorists should be finding it easier to get gas. More and more stations are pumping on Sundays, Saturday nights and weekday evenings. Most service stations on major highways are now open seven days a week with many also operating 24 hours a day. Most states have done away with odd-even rationing plans. And only few stations are now limiting purchases.

But it is still important for consumers to practice energy conservation. As FEA explains it, the importance of gasoline savings lies in the multipication factor. There are about 100 million registered cars in the 50 states. If every driver were to reduce fuel consumption by only 15 percent, we could save over 28 million gallons of gas a day. That would be a saving of over 680,000 barrels of gas every day!

Here are FEA's suggestions for reducing your fuel consumption this summer:

- Drive at moderate speeds. Most automobiles get about 28 percent more miles per gallon on the highway at 50 m.p.h. than they do at 70 and about 21 percent more mpg at 55 than at 70 m.p.h.
- Find ways to drive less. Join car pools, walk and bike more.
- Keep your car in prime condition to get better mileage. Have your car tuned twice a year, check tire pressure regularly and remove unnecessary weight from car.

For more information on how to conserve energy this summer, you may want to contact the Federal Energy Administration Public Inquiry Section, Washington, D.C. 20460.

For news of your local gasoline situation, watch this newspaper. For specific information on gasoline supplies in other areas, you might contact the state police or the turnpike or highway authority in those areas.

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

More than five million nonsupervisory government employees came under the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act May 1, 1974, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

There are now more than 8 1/2 million federal, state and local government employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

Local transit drivers, operators and conductors and employees of certain state or local seasonal recreational facilities are among government employees exempt from overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

* * *

The 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act increased the coverage of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to include a total of 13.8 million federal, state and local government employees between 40 to 65 years of age.

* * *

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act now covers private employers with 20 or more employees, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

gasoline savings lies in the "thrifty" mode driver.